

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A stereo control interface device that receives signals from at least one local vehicle stereo control device installed in the vehicle to control an originally installed stereo receiver and produces output signals to a replacement stereo receiver installed in the vehicle to replace the originally installed stereo receiver so that the at least one local vehicle stereo control device can be used to control the operation of the replacement stereo receiver.

2. The device of Claim 1, wherein the at least one local vehicle stereo control device comprises at least one switch located adjacent the steering wheel of the vehicle that is originally electrically connected to a factory installed stereo of the vehicle.

3. The device of Claim 1, wherein the vehicle comprises a motorcycle and the at least one local vehicle stereo control device comprises at least one switch located adjacent the handlebars of the motorcycle.

4. The device of Claim 1, wherein the stereo control interface device is adapted to be electrically coupled to the at least one local vehicle stereo control device and is further adapted to produce a wireless signal to the replacement stereo receiver corresponding to the signal received from the at least one local vehicle stereo control device.

5. The device of Claim 4, wherein the replacement stereo receiver is adapted to receive a first wireless signal from a handheld remote control upon a user depressing a first function key on the handheld remote control to change a first function of the operation of the replacement stereo receiver and wherein the stereo control interface produces a signal corresponding to the first wireless signal in response to a driver activating a first local vehicle stereo control device.

6. The device of Claim 5, wherein the stereo control interface device includes a memory and is programmable such that a programmer can sequentially store wireless signals corresponding to the at least one local vehicle stereo control devices such that subsequent activation of the at least one local vehicle stereo control devices results in a corresponding wireless signal being transmitted to the replacement stereo receiver.

7. The device of Claim 6, wherein the stereo control interface device includes a program mode wherein the stereo control interface device can be programmed by a programmer activating a first local vehicle stereo control device and the first function key on the handheld remote control.

8. The device of Claim 7, wherein the stereo control interface device includes a wireless receiver and a wireless transmitter so that the stereo control interface device can receive the first wireless signal from the handheld remote control and store a corresponding signal in the memory such that the stereo control interface device can recall the stored signal and thereby generate a wireless signal corresponding to the first wireless signal so as to change the first function of the stereo receiver.

9. A stereo system for a vehicle comprising:

at least one local stereo control device mounted in a first location on the vehicle that is adapted to send local control signals to an original stereo receiver to control the operation of the original stereo receiver;

a replacement stereo receiver adapted to replace an original stereo receiver, wherein the replacement stereo receiver is mounted in a second location on the vehicle wherein the replacement stereo receiver is adapted to receive remote control signals to control the operation of the replacement stereo receiver; and

an interface device that is adapted to be positioned within the vehicle so as to be able to receive the local control signals and in response to receiving the local control signals send output control signals corresponding to the remote control signals so as to control the operation of the replacement stereo such that the at least one local stereo control device can be used to control the replacement stereo via the interface device.

10. The system of Claim 9, wherein the at least one local stereo control device comprises at least one switch located adjacent the steering wheel of the vehicle that is originally electrically connected to an originally installed stereo receiver of the vehicle.

11. The system of Claim 9, wherein the vehicle comprises a motorcycle and the at least one local stereo control device comprises at least one switch located adjacent the handlebars of the motorcycle.

12. The system of Claim 9, wherein the replacement stereo receiver is adapted to receive wireless remote control signals to control the operation of the replacement stereo receiver.

13. The system of Claim 12, wherein the device is adapted to be electrically coupled to the at least one local stereo control device and is further adapted to receive and produce, in response to receiving the local control signals from the at least one local stereo control device, wireless output control signals to the replacement stereo receiver corresponding to the remote control signals.

14. The system of Claim 13, wherein the interface device is programmable such that the interface device can be programmed to produce a first wireless output control signal in response to receiving a first local control signal from the at least one local stereo control device.

15. The system of Claim 14, wherein the interface device includes a wireless receiver adapted to receive wireless remote control signals from a handheld remote control provided in conjunction with the replacement stereo receiver.

16. The system of Claim 15, wherein the interface device includes a wireless transmitter that is capable of transmitting the wireless output control signals.

17. The system of Claim 16, wherein the wireless transmitter and the wireless receiver comprises an infrared transmitter and receiver.